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### Potential Peril Cited

## Reds Warned by U.S. On Laos Aggression

By Murrey Marder  
Staff Reporter

United States warnings about potentially dangerous Communist moves in Southeast Asia yesterday spread from Viet-Nam to neighboring Laos.

The State Department charged Communist forces in Laos with "flagrant" violation of the 1962 East-West Geneva accords to neutralize that nation.

A spokesman said responsibility for blocking the International Control Commission's efforts to investigate cease-fire violations in Laos, "rests with the Communist side as a whole."

Press Officer Richard I.

Phillips said that in "the Communist side," he included the Soviet Union, which serves with Britain as cochairman for peacekeeping in all the former French Indochina territories; the Polish member of the International Control Commission; the North Vietnamese; the Communist Pathet Lao forces in Laos, and Communist China, which borders Laos in the north.

It was learned that Secretary of State Dean Rusk raised the Laotian problem with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin on Thursday. He also discussed East-West disarmament.

Violations of the Laotian neutrality agreement were among the topics discussed in Moscow yesterday by Ambassador Foy D. Kohler and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

Kohler returns from Moscow Monday for long-prepared consultations with President

Johnson and Secretary Rusk. Kohler talked with Gromyko for nearly two hours. He said afterwards that he was "satisfied and reasonably optimistic" about American-Soviet relations.

Officially, the United States regards the problems of Laotian neutrality and of the Vietnamese war against Communist guerrillas as unrelated subjects. But strategically there is a considerable relationship between the conflicts in the bordering nations.

The outcome of the fighting in South Viet-Nam can have very direct consequences for the shaky neutrality of Laos. Also, the recent talk of carrying the American-supported antiguerrilla struggle in South Viet-Nam to Communist North Viet-Nam is likely to make the

Communists extra-obstructive in Laos.

While no official would concede it yesterday, one of the reasons for Secretary Rusk's move Thursday in toning down prospects of carrying the fight to North Viet-Nam may have been to encourage better Soviet cooperation in policing the Laotian neutrality accords.

It was announced Thursday that the pro-Communist Pathet Lao forces in Laos captured Phou Ke, a strategic ridge near the Plain of Jars in north central Laos, after a three-day attack.

"We view this latest Communist attack with great concern," said Phillips at the State Department yesterday. He described the attack as "unprovoked," and said it was

supported by "North Viet-Nam forces." He noted that the majority of the forces of Gen. Kong Le, the neutralist leader in Laos, are on the Plain of Jars.

The International Control Commission in Laos, composed of Indian, Polish and Canadian officials, still has not acted on a Jan. 16 request by Laotian Premier Souvanna Phouma to investigate Communist cease-fire violations in Central Laos, Phillips said. The Polish member of the ICC has insisted that first the Pathet Lao must consent to an investigation.

The Laotian neutrality accords hang on the very clouded hope of agreement among the pro-Communist, neutralist and right-wing forces there.